

13 June 2008

LOCAL CHARITY ANNOUNCES PLANS AND ACHIEVEMENTS TO BUSINESS AUDIENCE

A breakfast for the business community, at Clifford Chance's offices in Canary Wharf, provided the opportunity for local charity, IDCF to outline the role that the corporate sector can play in helping to make a difference to the lives of local people. The event was attended by representatives from companies with offices in the Canary Wharf area, including IDCF's key supporters, Morgan Stanley, Credit Suisse and Barclays Capital.

Through its grant making, IDCF continues to make a significant impact in the local community. Some achievements during the past 12 months include helping 550 residents to undertake training, as a result of which 195 obtained a qualification. Eighty-two residents entered employment.

Three thousand young people were involved in projects to promote social and personal development, and there were 15 youth crime prevention initiatives attended by 320 young people.

Howard Dawber, Chairman of IDCF and Strategic Adviser for Canary Wharf Group, spoke of two simple but effective schemes in which the business sector had been directly involved: "Island Exchange Project which offers the loan of baby goods to families on low incomes enabled us to organise collections of unwanted clothes, toys and equipment from companies. Building on this idea, we ran a request to provide a bag of Christmas shopping to be given to local elders. We had a fabulous response and it made Christmas for lots of people a bit special."

Mr. Dawber announced that, as a result of new funds, IDCF had extended its area of benefit to two additional wards – Limehouse and East India & Lansbury. He also acknowledged the role that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets had played in appointing the charity as the distributing body for Section 106 Planning Obligation funds and that businesses could help maximise the effect of this spending. "Tower Hamlets is an area of huge economic opportunity but local people lack the skills to access that. IDCF has a proven track record for devising and implementing an effective programme of activities to relieve poverty as well as managing funds on behalf of a wide variety of donors. Through a joint strategic approach, we can make a long-term difference."

Carl Kemp, a beneficiary of IDCF's Community Self-Help Programme (CSH) which trains local people for careers in community development, also spoke at the meeting. He said: "Without CSH, a number of people, including me, wouldn't have had the chance to develop the skills to gain employment."

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